

Atty. Dkt. 4002-2533

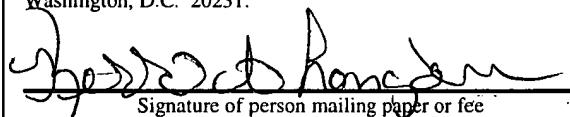
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Charles L. Branch et al.)
Serial No.)
Filed Herewith)
INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS)
AND INSTRUMENTATION)

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Date of Deposit: 5-30-01

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned patent application prior to examination. A marked-up version of each amended paragraph is provided on a separate sheet attached to this Preliminary Amendment and entitled, "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

A Petition to Make Special and an Information Disclosure Statement are also filed concurrent with this Preliminary Amendment.

It is believed no fee is due; however, please charge any fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of any issue fee.

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please add the following paragraph: